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MAY 6.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Sixteen persons present.

*A Rare Human Tapeworm.*—Dr. LEIDY directed attention to some little tapeworms, which had recently been submitted to his examination by Prof. William Pepper. They were expelled, by the use of santonin, from a child of three years. The specimens, consisting of a dozen fragments, appear to be portions of three worms, which reached a length of from twelve to fifteen inches, or more. Unfortunately the head is lost. The joints or proglottides are more than several times the breadth of the length. In a specimen of thirteen inches, comprising nearly a complete worm, the joints of the anterior attenuated extremity are about the one-fifth of a millimetre long by nearly two-thirds of a millimetre wide, while the posterior joints are half a millimetre long and two and a quarter millimetres wide. Ripe joints at the posterior part of the body are pale brown, the color being due to the eggs. These occupy a simple uterus defined by the walls of the joints, and not divided into pouches diverging laterally from a main stem as is usual in most *tæniæ*. A singular feature of the worm is the interruption of the series of ripe joints, here and there, by one or more completely sterile ones. The generative apertures open in the usual way on the lateral margin of one side. The mature eggs are spherical, measure 0.072 mm. diameter, and contain, fully developed, six hooked embryos.

While differing greatly from the ordinary tapeworms infesting man, they approximate nearly the description of *Tæniæ flavopunctata*, and probably pertain to this species. This has been but once previously observed, and was described in 1858 by Dr. Weinland (*An Essay on Tapeworms of Man*), from specimens in the Museum of the Medical Improvement Society of Boston. These were also discharged by a child. The worm was estimated to be from eight to twelve inches. The joints were marked by a yellow spot, from which the species was named. The eggs measure from 0.054 to 0.06 mm.

Our specimens indicate a worm almost the same size as the *T. flavopunctata*, but the joints are shorter and wider, and exhibit no yellow spot, and the eggs are larger. In other characters the worms sufficiently accord to render it probable that they may pertain to the same species. It is probable that the worm is more common than would be supposed from the instances of its observation, and has perhaps escaped notice from its small size, and from the general ignorance of the distinction, not only of this, but of the ordinary species of tapeworms.

A more complete account of the subject of this communication will shortly appear in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*.